

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5 to 13, 16 to 24, 27 to 29 and 32 are now pending in the application. Independent Claim 1, 23 and 27 are amended to overcome the cited prior art. Other claim amendment concerns claim dependencies. Claims 2, 4, 14, 15, 30 and 31 are cancelled.

Substance of interview

A phone interview concerning this application took place on December 5, 2008. The participants were Examiner Haresh N. PATEL and C. Marc Benoît, agent of record.

The Agent of Record explained how, in his opinion, the integration of claims 2, 4, 14 and 15 into claim 1 would overcome the cited prior art. The same limitations integrated into claim 23 and 27 would also overcome the cited prior art. The Examiner understood the Applicant's arguments and requested that a response to that effect be submitted to the PTO. No agreement was reached. The substance of the Applicant's arguments is found below.

Claim rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

In view of the amendments provided herein, the Applicant requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn.

The Applicant submits that all claims which were rejected and not discussed herein, are dependent upon claims which overcome the cited prior art.

It is submitted, that Claims 1, 3, 5 to 13, 16 to 24, 27 to 29 and 32 are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the claim rejections is respectfully requested. Allowance of claims 1-8 and 10-22 at an early date is solicited.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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